

Amendment to Specification

At page 1, lines 4-5, please amend the statement to read as follows:

--This is a continuation-in-part based on U.S. Serial No. 10/151,333, filed May 20, 2002, pending, which is a continuation-in-part based on U.S. Serial No. 09/999,307 filed October 31, 2001, pending and allowed.--

At page 6, lines 22-23, please amend to read as follows:

--Fig. 17 is a cross-sectional illustration of a further exemplary bag barrier assembly of the invention forming an "H"-shape; and

Fig. 18 is a cross-sectional illustration of another exemplary "H"-shaped track device of the invention;

Fig. 19 is a cross-sectional illustration of another exemplary "H"-shaped track device of the invention;

Figs. 20-22 are cross-sectional illustrations of various other exemplary installation methods for attaching "H"-shaped track devices of the invention to fluted metal ceilings; and

Fig. 23 is a cross-sectional illustration of an exemplary valve fitment for exemplary molding barrier bags and "H"-shaped track devices of the invention.

At page 31, line 28, please amend as follows: --The "U"-shaped track 13 and track 12 [14] together form an "H" shape. --

At page 31, between lines 28 and 29, please insert the following paragraphs:

--Fig. 18 is a cross-sectional and exploded view of another exemplary "H"-shaped track device (designated as at 70) comprising an upper track 13 for retaining the molding barrier bag 30 and a lower track 12 for straddling wall studs (such as a vertical wall assembly, not shown). The upper track 13 has an elongate body having a channel for retaining a molding barrier bag, as previously discussed in detail above, and comprises upper flanges 71 and 72 for attaching the track device 70 to a building surface such as a ceiling. The flanges 71/72 may be attached to a ceiling, for example, by adhesive (e.g., hot melt), screws, or other known means. In the exemplary track device 70 shown, the upper flanges 71 and 72 are connected respectively to vertical members or walls 73 and 74, which are in turn connected to each other by a connecting wall 75. The walls 73, 74, and/or 75 preferably contain openings located periodically along the length of the track 13 for accessing bag valves 40 for filling the bag 30 with firestop material 32 (not shown). The lower track 12 is shaped to straddle wall studs (not shown). The track 12 comprises vertical members or walls 77 and 78 which are preferably spaced apart in alignment with the walls 73 and 74 of the upper track 13; and these walls 77 and 78 are connected together by a transverse connecting wall 76 that preferably contains openings located periodically along the length of the track 12 for accessing bag valves 40, as mentioned above. The upper and lower tracks 13/12 can be screwed, adhered, or

welded together as one piece. Alternatively, the upper track 13 can be fitted with a molding barrier bag and attached to the ceiling first, and the lower track 12 can be attached to the upper track 13 at a later stage. --

--Accordingly, the invention provides a device for making a barrier, comprising an elongate body having an H-shaped cross-sectional profile, the body having a pair of flanges to attach said H-shape to a building surface. Preferably, the H-shaped cross-sectional profile of the elongate body and flanges are formed from one sheet of metal, and the body has at least one opening in the side vertical walls or in the transverse connecting wall that connects the vertical walls, for accessing a molding barrier bag placed in the upper "U" channel of the device. --

--Preferably, valve openings are contained in the respective connecting walls 75 and 76, rather than in walls 73, 77, 74, and 78. The valve openings may, for example, be round openings having a diameter of 1.0-6.0 cms. However, it is preferred that the upper track 13 contain relatively tiny openings (e.g., 0.25-2.0 cm). in walls 73 and 74, proximate to the upper flanges 71 and 74, to facilitate visual inspection and confirmation (by an installer) that the molding barrier bag 30 is being adequately filled with flowable firestop material.

--Another exemplary "H"-track device 80 is shown in Fig. 19. This exemplary embodiment is preferably made from one piece (e.g., galvanized steel, aluminum) folded into an "H"-shaped cross-sectional profile. Flanges 81 and 82 are connected respectively to outer vertical walls 83 and 84, which are connected respectively to inner lower vertical walls 85 and 86, which are connected to each other by connecting wall member 87 that is perpendicular with respect to vertical wall members 83, 84, 85, and 86. The connecting wall member 87 preferably has valve openings 88 located periodically along its length to allow access to the molding barrier bag (not shown) and to permit a bag valve to be accessed (as shown in Fig. 18). The outer vertical walls 83 and 84 preferably have small openings 89 which are preferably located proximate the upper flanges 81 and 82 and periodically along the length of the track 80 to permit installers to ascertain visually that a molding barrier bag positioned in the upper channel is being properly filled with firestop material. --

--Accordingly, exemplary methods of the invention for making a barrier comprise inserting the H-track device 70 against a building surface, such as a fluted metal ceiling, assembling wall studs beneath and connected to said device 70, and filling a molding barrier bag with firestop material. The bag is preferably inserted into the H-track device before the device is attached to the ceiling surface, although it can be inserted after attachment through a hole in the device. The bag can be filed before or after vertical wall studs are assembled and connected to the H-track device. Wall boards (e.g., gypsum) can be attached to the wall studs before or (preferably) after the bag is filled. --

--Fig. 20 is a cross-sectional illustration of a method for installing, on a fluted metal ceiling, an exemplary H-track device, (which is here designated as 80 as in Fig. 19; but could be designated as at 70 in Figs. 17-18). Where the cavity of the fluted metal ceiling 10 is wider than the device 80, a metal plate 91 can be used to connect

the lower ceiling surface 10B to a flange on the H-track device 80, such as by using screws 92, or fasteners in order to span the ceiling cavity (10B/10A/10B) and retain a molding barrier bag in place while the bag is being filled with firestop material. Alternatively, the H-track device 80 may be connected to the upper ceiling 10A surface using an appropriately shaped plate 91 or brace, as shown in Fig. 21. Two such plates 91 or braces can be used to connect the H-shaped device 80 directly to the upper ceiling surface 10A, such as shown in Fig. 22, where it is desired to locate the stud wall assembly centrally beneath the cavity 10B/10A/10B of the fluted ceiling 10. For providing further structural stability to the assembled wall structure, the flanges of the H-track device may be used for attaching other braces (not shown) to ceiling surfaces (e.g., 10B). In Figs. 20-22, the wall members 91 work cooperatively with the upper "U" channel of the H-track device 80 to retain a molding barrier bag as it is filled with firestop material, and optionally such wall members may contain openings that are appropriately sized for bag valves or for permitting visual inspection of the bag being filled with firestop material. --

--Fig. 23 is a cross-sectional illustration of an exemplary one-way valve 100 fitted for use with molding barrier bags and exemplary "H"-track devices of the invention. The valve 100 has a cylindrical or cone shaped body 102 having an outer dimension and shape suitable for insertion through an opening 88 in the transverse connecting wall 87 of an H-track device as previously described (See e.g., Fig. 19). The valve is preferably made of plastic or rubber so that it can be snapped into a locking position in an opening in the H-track device. As shown in Fig. 23, the valve body 102 has a passage way or channel 103 through which firestop material can be flowed and further has an openable flap 104 disposed in a resiliently closeable position to block the passage 103. At one end of the valve body 102 is a circumferential collar 105 or flange to prevent the valve body 102 from slipping through the opening 88. Preferably, the valve body 102 has one or more détents 106 adjacent the collar 105 to permit the valve body 102 to be locked into the wall opening 88. The body 102 may also preferably have features, such as screw threads, dimples, or protrusions (not shown) on its outer or inner body surface to permit hoses (for pumping firestop material into the bag 30) to be releasably attached to the valve 102 after the valve 100 is installed through the opening 88 and locked into place. The molding barrier bag 30 can be attached to the upper surface of the valve collar 105, such as by tape 107, or other means. In practice, the bag can be taped to the valve 100 before the valve is locked into the opening 88, and the bag is punctured through the opening at the valve. It is also contemplated that a cutting device, such as a sharp edge, can be used on the flap 104 to enable the bag to be opened and filled simultaneously. --